

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1, 15, and 16 in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A PC switching device, installed between a keyboard without a power control key and a plurality of personal computers, intended for keyboards with power control keys, that are connected to the keyboard without a power control key, comprising:

a plurality of power control switches corresponding respectively to the plurality of personal computers;

recognizing means for recognizing that some of the plurality of personal computers, which correspond to at least one of the plurality of power control switches firstly pressed, are in a power-on state;

selective inputting means for selectively inputting commands from ~~one set of input devices, including the~~ keyboard without a power control key[[,]] to one of the plurality of personal computers; and

code transmitting means for transmitting codes assigned to the power control switches to certain ones of the personal computers and powering off the same when the certain ones of the personal computers in the power-on state are selected by the selective inputting means and the power control switches that correspond to the certain ones of the personal computers in the power-on state are pressed again.

2. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A PC switching device installed between a keyboard with a power control key and a plurality of personal computers intended for keyboards with power control keys, comprising:

powering means for powering all of the plurality of personal computers simultaneously by pressing the power control key on the keyboard when the plurality of personal computers are in a power-off state;

recognizing means for recognizing that all of the plurality of personal computers are in the power-on state;

selective inputting means for selectively inputting commands from one set of input

devices, including the keyboard with a power control key, to one of the plurality of personal computers; and

code transmitting means for transmitting a code assigned to the power control key to certain ones of the personal computers and powering off the same, when the certain ones of the personal computers recognized as being in the power-on state by the recognizing means are selected by the selective inputting means and the power control key on the keyboard is pressed again to power off the certain ones of the personal computers.

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A PC switching device installed between a keyboard with a power control key and a plurality of personal computers capable of being powered using keyboards with power control keys, comprising:

powering means for powering some of the plurality of personal computers previously selected by pressing the power control key on the keyboard when all of the plurality of personal computers are in a power-off state;

recognizing means for recognizing that the selected personal computers are turned on;

selectively inputting means for selectively inputting commands from one set of input devices, including the keyboard with a power control key, to one of the plurality of personal computers; and

code transmitting means for transmitting a code assigned to the power control key to certain ones of the personal computers and powering off the same, when the certain ones of the personal computers recognized as being in the power-on state by the recognizing means are selected by the selective inputting means and the power control key on the keyboard is pressed again to power off the certain ones of the personal computers.

4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The PC switching device of claim 1, further comprising:

transistors controlling connecting states between power supply terminals of the plurality of personal computers for powering the keyboard and a power receiving terminal of the keyboard; and

comparators comparing a first voltage at each of the power supply terminals with a second voltage of the power receiving terminal, and turning on some of the transistors when the former is higher than the latter, but turning off other transistors when the former is lower than the latter.

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The PC switching device of claim 2, further comprising:

transistors controlling connecting states between power supply terminals of the plurality of personal computers for powering the keyboard and a power receiving terminal of the keyboard; and

comparators comparing a first voltage at each of the power supply terminals with a second voltage of the power receiving terminal, and turning on some of the transistors when the former is higher than the latter, but turning off other transistors when the former is lower than the latter.

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10. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The PC switching device of claim 4, further comprising:

first voltage dividers dividing a voltage at each of the power supply terminals; and
second voltage dividers dividing a voltage at the power receiving terminal by a ratio equal to that of a corresponding one of the first voltage dividers, wherein
the first voltage is a voltage divided by each of the first voltage dividers, and
the second voltage is a voltage divided by each of the second voltage dividers.

11. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The PC switching device of claim 4, wherein the comparators are driven by power supplied from the power supply terminals of the plurality of personal computers, or from the power receiving terminal of the keyboard.

12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The PC switching device of claim 5, further comprising:

first voltage dividers dividing a voltage at each of the power supply terminals; and
second voltage dividers dividing a voltage at the power receiving terminal by a ratio equal to that of a corresponding one of the first voltage dividers, wherein
the first voltage is a voltage divided by each of the first voltage dividers, and
the second voltage is a voltage divided by each of the second voltage dividers.

13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The PC switching device of claim 5, wherein the comparators are driven by power supplied from the power supply terminals of the plurality of personal computers, or from the power receiving terminal of the keyboard.

14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The PC switching device of claim 3, further comprising:

transistors controlling connecting states between power supply terminals of the plurality of personal computers for powering the keyboard and a power receiving terminal of the keyboard; and

comparators comparing a first voltage at each of the power supply terminals with a second voltage of the power receiving terminal, and turning on some of the transistors when the former is higher than the latter, but turning off other transistors when the former is lower than the latter.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The PC switching device of claim 614, further comprising:

first voltage dividers dividing a voltage at each of the power supply terminals; and
second voltage dividers dividing a voltage at the power receiving terminal by a ratio equal to that of a corresponding one of the first voltage dividers, wherein
the first voltage is a voltage divided by each of the first voltage dividers, and
the second voltage is a voltage divided by each of the second voltage dividers.

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The PC switching device of claim 614, wherein the comparators are driven by power supplied from the power supply terminals of the plurality of personal computers, or from the power receiving terminal of the keyboard.